

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Amend independent claims 1 and 13.
2. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections.
3. Remind the Examiner to consider the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed April 30, 2008.

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 13, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,524,401 to Ishikawa et al. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,524,401 to Ishikawa et al in view of U.S. Publication 2002/0053360 to Kinoshita et al. Claims 12, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,524,401 to Ishikawa et al in view of U.S. Patent 6,242,685 to Mizukami et al. All prior art rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

In Applicant's module frame, the first frame element (front-side frame element) and the second frame element (rear-side frame element) are opposed to each other, and the third frame element (left-side frame element) and the forth frame element (right-side frame element) are opposed to each other. The fact that the left-side frame element (e.g., third frame element) and the right-side frame element (e.g., fourth frame element) extend from the front-side frame element to the rear-side frame element is now explicitly required by both independent claims 1 and 13. Moreover, both independent claims 1 and 13 continue to require that the water-leakage preventive edge protruding outwardly (e.g.,

laterally) and extend angled downward (e.g., longitudinally) from the ridge to the eaves of the roof.

None the three applied references appear to have water-leakage preventive edges on right and left sides of the frame.

As for Ishikawa, "eaves flashings 48 and 49" cannot correspond to the "water-leakage preventive edge" of Applicant's independent claims 1 and 13. Ishikawa's "eaves flashings 48 and 49" cover the edge of the eaves lower than the roof tiles and the solar-battery module to prevent the edge of the eaves of the roof where no roof tile or solar-battery module is installed from getting wet with rain. In addition, the "eaves flashings 48 and 49" are elements independent from the frame of the solar-battery module. Figs. 7 and 9 prove that the frame does not have the "eaves flashings 48 and 49".

In independent claims 1 and 13, on the other hand, the third and forth frame elements on right and left sides of the module frame have the water-leakage preventive edges (such as edges 13c and 14b illustrated in applicant's drawings) to prevent rain water from entering between the roof tile and the solar-battery module or between solar-battery modules, which are installed laterally upper from the eaves of the roof, as shown in Fig. 3.

Moreover, the "eaves flashings 48 and 49" of Ishikawa are absolutely irrelevant to the "water-leakage preventive edges 13c and 14b" of independent claims 1 and 13 because, e.g., their purpose and location on the roof are totally different.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

The Examiner is respectfully reminded to consider the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed April 30, 2008.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: /H. Warren Burnam, Jr./
H. Warren Burnam, Jr.
Reg. No. 29,366

HWB:lsh
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100